

VAN HAM

Auction 370
Fine Art
May 13th, 2015

Lot 586-593

August Friedrich Piepenhagen (1791-1868) and Charlotte Piepenhagen (1821-1902)

August Friedrich Piepenhagen was born in 1791 in Soldin near Frankfurt/Oder. Descending from modest circumstances he first did an apprenticeship in button- and lace-up-making and during his journey he made his way to Switzerland.

Despite knowing the Zurich Johann Heinrich Wuest and the motivic influence of Salomon Gessner it is generally assumed that Piepenhagen was first of all an autodidact and that the powerful impressions of nature of the Swiss landscapes inspired him to drawing and painting. In 1811 he moved to Prague, took over his predecessor's button-making workshop and married his widow. Between 1816 and 1825 he had four daughters and he educated two of his daughters, Charlotte and Louisa, to become painters. At the latest since the 1820s he was continuously active as a landscapist next to his successful activity as an entrepreneur. Starting from the mid 19th century he made several journeys through Germany, France and Belgium and was accompanied by Charlotte and Louisa. His great popularity, particularly in Prague, Vienna, Linz, Munich and Berlin, and the heavy demand for his romantic compositions made him set up books of samples including paintings in miniature format according to which his prospects could order their preferred works.

On September 27th, 1868 August Piepenhagen died in Jeneralka near Prague. His artistic heritage is continued by his daughters and students, Charlotte and Louisa. The Prague National Gallery showed an extensive exhibition of works by the painter family Piepenhagen in 2009/2010.

The here presented eight studies of nature (four by August and four by Charlotte) are all taken from the estate collection from direct family succession of the family Piepenhagen. Except one marked work, the unmarked sheets resp. cardboards bear the pencil logograms A (or AR) and Ch, for August and Charlotte, on verso – presumably they were made by one of the daughters.

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